



# CHATHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

*“Save it To Spade it”*

Food Waste Composting Program

(Information for ANJEC Congress )

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# First in the Nation

## Chatham Township, NJ

Integrates the food waste composting efforts of the residents, community organizations and schools

Provides educational “composting outreach” that links everyone in the community to the program

Features backyard composters and a **Rocket® Composter.**

# What is Composting?

- COMPOSTING: the process of turning once living organisms into rich soil (humus)



- HUMUS/COMPOST: “finished compost” is dark brown, crumbly, and smells like a forest floor





# On Site Food, Yard and Garden Waste Composting

- ❖ Helping our residents to compost



- ❖ Helping our schools to compost





# Our Program's Benefits



- reduces food waste, yard and gardening waste
- reduces water use
- reduces carbon footprint
- reduces residential and school expenses
- improves community recycling
- produces mulch and compost
- provides sustainability education and outreach to our community members and schools

# Additional Benefits: Environmental and Sustainability

- ▣ Compost use: plants, lawns, trees, gardens, school yards, playgrounds, landscaping, horticulture, agriculture
- ▣ Beneficial for the land as a soil conditioner, a fertilizer, a natural pesticide
- ▣ In ecosystems, compost is useful for erosion control, land and stream reclamation, wetland construction, and as landfill cover

# Related Topics = Funding Sources

- The *Sustainable Jersey* Program
- Recycling and Waste Management
- Agriculture, Gardening, Landscaping, Horticulture , Farming
- Stormwater Management
- Water Conservation/Water Protection
- Pesticides
- Land Conservation/land and stream reclamation
- Environmental Education and Outreach





# First Steps

1. Establish & Invite

2. Educate

3. Conduct Outreach

4. Publicize



# Step 1: Establish and Invite

- Research programs, permissions, funding
- Duplicate, tailor, create, establish a Program  
“Save it To Spade it” created in 2009 for residents, community, schools
- Seek Partnerships
- Begin Inviting your target audience, interested entities, “champions,” Scouts, schools, topic-related entities





## Step 2: Educate

Each “invitation” includes a brief paragraph about composting ---even for your:

- Mayor, governing body, muni administration, boards, departments-esp. DPW-Recycling
- newspapers, electronic publications, websites, social media, newsletters
- correspondence w/ schools

Always provide your contact info\* (email, tel #, website) and date your material

\*Inquirers often become volunteers!



# Education and Outreach





## Step 3. Outreach: Hands On Activities

- ▣ Free Composting Workshops
- ▣ Community Service for Scouts ; workshops, programs, badges for Scouts
- ▣ “Sample Set Up” in library, town hall, school lobbies or “Demonstration – Education station”
- ▣ Free Lectures in Libraries, or for Garden Group, and other Community Clubs
- ▣ Contests
- ▣ Green Fairs
- ▣ Interactive Website



# Step 4: Publicize



- ▣ Newspapers, electronic publications, email blasts, websites, Facebook, twitter, blogs, etc.
- ▣ Municipal websites, ECBB, TV, emails, letters; school and club newsletters; community websites
- ▣ Invite reporters and photographers to attend an event, a meeting, or to conduct an interview, cover the story
- ▣ Set up demos in schools, libraries, houses of worship, community centers, town hall, etc.

Also: Publicity = educating the public; community service; funding; volunteer help; great “PR” for your hometown!



# Presentations before Towns/School Boards

## Additional Economic Benefits

- ▣ NJ Recycling Tonnage Grants, recycling rebates, etc.
- ▣ Reduce costs of solid waste removal
- ▣ Eliminate the need to pay a composting vendor to remove food/yard waste
- ▣ School use of the compost reduces expensive school landscaping costs=less expense to taxpayers
- ▣ Sustainable Jersey
- ▣ Great Publicity

Photo courtesy of Peter Craig, ANJEC





# Sustainable Chatham Township

Here are some of the many environmental and sustainability programs we offer:

“Save it To Spade It” Program  
(backyard composting and school-food composting)

Native Habitat, Rain Garden, Community Garden, and School Gardens

“Soak it ~ Don’t Send it!” Program  
(water protection, conservation, and rain barrels )

“Turn the Key – Be Idle Free” (reducing pollution and vehicular idling)

The Eco Film & Discussion Series

The Pesticides -Free Program

Recycling Programs



# **“Save it To Spade it”**

## **Chatham Township’s Composting Program**

By coming here today,  
you are already on your way to Step 5:

Take Action  
Inspire Others

**Congratulations!**

# The Rocket Composter Contact Information



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# The Chatham Township Environmental Commission (CTEC)

## Community Education & Outreach Committee

Questions: email us at [ctec@chathamtownship.org](mailto:ctec@chathamtownship.org)  
or visit our website at  
[www.chathamtownship.org/CTEC/EC](http://www.chathamtownship.org/CTEC/EC)

